



**REPORT of
CORPORATE LEADERSHIP TEAM**

**to
COUNCIL
12 SEPTEMBER 2024**

URGENT ITEM OF BUSINESS

**AUTHORITY TO ENGAGE WITH PARTNERS ON FUTURE PROVISION OF LOCAL
HEALTH SERVICES**

1. PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

- 1.1 This matter is brought forward for consideration with the agreement of the Chairperson following the conclusion of the public consultation on the future of NHS services and the need to engage with partners over the provision and possible location of local health services (currently provided from the St Peter's Hospital site) utilising Council assets.
- 1.2 It is understood follow up meetings will be scheduled with partners during this month to progress matters. As part of the discussion will focus on District Council assets, Officers need to be in attendance. These meetings may occur before the next scheduled meeting of the Council on 8 October, and this is the reason the Chairperson agreed to the item of urgent business.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS

- (i) that Officers are authorised to engage with key partners including Essex County Council and NHS as a contingency to assist in the identification of local opportunities to maintain services currently provided from the St Peter's Hospital site should they be required;
- (ii) that the Leader of the Council attends key partner meetings as and when required;
- (iii) that the Council is updated on discussions on a regular basis and any proposals are brought forward to the Council for consideration as and when identified.

3. SUMMARY OF KEY ISSUES

- 3.1 Councillor Kevin Bentley, Leader of Essex County Council (ECC) recently hosted a second Maldon Summit looking at key issues in the district. Part of the discussion focussed on the work being undertaken by the NHS following the public consultation exercise over service provision at St Peter's Hospital. The response from the NHS is to be published at the end of the month.
- 3.2 It is understood several suggestions have been made by consultees (including the public) on possible locations for delivery of health services should it not be possible

to continue to deliver them from the St Peter's site. The Council Offices at Princes Road has been identified within the consultation as a possible location as well as property owned by ECC.

- 3.3 At the Maldon Summit the Leader of ECC proposed the two authorities now work closely together to review land and property holdings in the spirit of 'one public estate' to see how assistance might be given to the NHS to retain local NHS services.
- 3.4 Officers wish to engage with ECC, NHS and other key partners to explore if and how the Councils asset holdings may be utilised. Any proposals identified would be brought before Members for consideration and decision.

4. CONCLUSION

- 4.1 Authority is sought to engage with ECC, NHS and key partners to establish if the Council has land or property suitable to base local NHS services should they be unable to be provided from the St Peter's site in Maldon.
- 4.2 The NHS has stated the recent consultation related to the provision of services from the Hospital site and not the future of the St Peter's site itself. It is understood through future meetings of the Maldon Summit the NHS Trust responsible for the site will be invited to attend and discuss the intentions for the site.
- 4.3 The activity relating to this report should be seen as contingency should the NHS need to relocate services. The ultimate decision on relocation rests with the NHS, this engagement merely seeks to identify options for consideration as an alternative to seeing services withdrawn from the locality and ensures Maldon District Council is represented in any discussions. By not engaging with partners there is significant risk that the Council will not be heard or have influence on any outcomes.
- 4.4 The Leader of the Council will invite Mr Tom Abell, Chief Executive Officer of NHS Mid and South Essex to a meeting to discuss the Consultation and future of the St Peter's site and update Members accordingly after the discussion.

5. IMPACT ON PRIORITIES AS SET OUT IN THE CORPORATE PLAN 2023 - 2027

5.1 Supporting our communities

- 5.1.1 The provision of local health care facilities is essential to support the community. The Council may have assets suitable for the location of services and working with partners may be able to aid the NHS.

5.2 Enhancing and connecting our place

- 5.2.1 The provision of local health services within the District is essential in enabling services are accessible to Maldon District residents.

6. IMPLICATIONS

- (i) **Impact on Customers** – All residents are potential users of local NHS facilities and the Council through effective partnership working and the use of its assets may assist in maintaining local services provided to customers.

- (ii) **Impact on Equalities** – Maintaining local service provision for all.
- (iii) **Impact on Risk (including Fraud implications)** – None identified.
- (iv) **Impact on Resources (financial)** – None identified at this time however, Members will be asked to consider the financial impacts of any options coming forward. The Council will state a position that any specific design or consultancy work will be funded via the NHS relating to Council property.
- (v) **Impact on Resources (human)** – Officer time will be expended in discussing options through partnership meetings.

Background Papers: None.

Enquiries to: Richard Holmes, Director of Service Delivery.